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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

**Maertens et al**

Atty. Ref.: **2752-48**

Divisional of Serial No. **09/378,900**

Group:

Filed: **July 6, 2001**

Examiner:

For: **PROCESS FOR TYPING OF HCV ISOLATES**

\* \* \* \* \*

**July 6, 2001**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Preliminary amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Amend the specification as follows.

Insert the attached Sequence Listing after the claims pages.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Amend the claims as follows.

Cancel claims 1-23, without prejudice.

Insert the following claims:

24. (new) A polynucleic acid specifically hybridizing with a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 55 to SEQ ID NO: 81, under conditions allowing discrimination of up to 1 nucleotide mismatch, or the complement thereof.

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25. (new) An HCV virus characterized by any of the 5' UTR nucleotide  
sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 55 to 81.†

**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to include the attached Sequence Listing.  
The attached Sequence is the same as the paper and computer-readable copies of the  
Sequence Listing filed in the parent Application No. 09/378,900, with a Statement dated  
August 23, 1999. The Office is requested to use the computer-readable copy of the  
Sequence Listing of the parent Application No. 09/378,900 for the present application.  
No new matter has been added. A separate Request in this regard is attached.

Claims 1-23 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 24 and 25 have  
been added. Support for the amended claims is found throughout the specification. No  
new matter has been added. Claims 24 and 25 are pending.

A substitute Power of Attorney and Change of Address Notice is attached and  
the Office is requested to direct all further communication relating to the above to the  
undersigned.

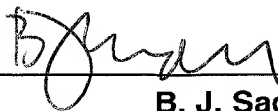
An early and favorable Action on the merits is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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